



**OBITUARY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY OF KENNETH S.
HAGEN (1919–1997), DEDICATED ENTOMOLOGIST
AND TEACHER**

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Kenneth Sverre Hagen, professor emeritus of Entomology at the University of California, Berkeley, and past president of the Pacific Coast Entomological So-



Figure 1. Collecting trip in Sunset Valley, near Santa Barbara, California in 1939, with (L-R) Edwin Van Dyke, Burdett White, Bill Barr & Ken Hagen.

ciety, died suddenly of a ruptured aortic aneurism on 10 Jan 1997. He is survived by his wife Maxine, his son Kent, and his brother Paul. Worldwide he was regarded as an authority on biological control and insect nutrition. Those who worked with him, also regarded him as the first one to go to for an identification, a literature source, or a cup of coffee.

Ken was born in Oakland, California on 26 Nov 1919. His parents were from Norway, and his father was a seaman, serving on such ships as the *Balclutha*, and eventually reached the rank of first mate. Ken's mother passed away when he was a teenager, and he and his brother had to fend for themselves when their father was away on a voyage.

As a boy, Ken enjoyed chemistry and natural history, and collecting insects was a favorite pastime, but it was a favored teacher in the 9th grade at Lockwood Junior High School who recognized his talents and stimulated him to focus on science as a career. Ken attended Fremont High School in Oakland, where he played football and set a high jump record in track. He graduated from Fremont High in 1938, and then enrolled in San Francisco State College. During this time, his love of natural history led him to the California Academy of Sciences, first as a part-time preparator of insects, and later as an assistant caretaker in the Steinhart Aquarium. He went collecting with Edwin van Dyke, and climbed Mt. Whitney with his fellow coleopterist, Bill Barr. At San Francisco State he continued to play football, and received his A.A. degree in 1942.

Ken then attended U.C. Berkeley, where he was offered a football scholarship. However, Ken did not play football at Cal, but concentrated on his studies (taking up to 24 units a term) to earn his B.S. in entomology in 1943. He then went to

Officer Candidate School at Columbia University, where was commissioned in the U.S. Navy as one of the "90 day wonders". Ken was then given a brief leave, which he used to return to Oakland and marry his fiancée, Maxine White, on 1 Dec 1943. A week later he went to Norfolk, Virginia to attend Amphibious Training School, and then was shipped out to Europe.

During the war he served on the USS Anne Arundel, as a lieutenant in charge of a landing craft section, and saw action in the Neptune Invasion at Omaha Beach in Normandy, and the Dragon Invasion in the south of France in 1944. In 1945, he participated in the landings at Okinawa (where the fierce fighting stranded his boat on the beach overnight), and later helped transport Chinese troops. He developed quite a reputation among his comrades for his entomological interests—en route for the Pacific, Ken was seen leaning over the rail with a net, sweeping the vegetation while passing through the Panama Canal.

In 1946, Ken came back to California and was hired as the supervising entomologist for the West Side Alfalfa Pest Control Association in California's Central Valley, responsible for overseeing 10,000 acres of alfalfa, and becoming the first supervised control entomologist in California. This position played a key role in the development of integrated pest management, and was the predecessor of today's pest control advisor. Ken then returned to Berkeley as a graduate student, working as a technician in the Division of Biological Control. He received his M.S. there in 1948, and his Ph.D. in 1952, under the direction of Richard Doutt. This was a particularly rich time to be at Berkeley, as Ken studied under such luminaries as E. O. Essig, E. G. Linsley, R. L. Usinger and A. E. Michelbacher. He also spent a year in Oahu working on the oriental fruit fly with Robert van den Bosch, and worked in the statewide Department of Biological Control under Harry Scott Smith, whose signed photograph was one of Ken's treasured possessions. He was appointed Junior Entomologist in the Division of Biological Control, Agricultural Experiment Station (at the Gill Tract in Albany, California) in 1952, and advanced to Entomologist in 1965, and to Professor of Entomology in 1969. Ken took a special leave of absence from 1961 to 1963 to work for the government of Greece to advise and develop culturing techniques for the olive fly. He officially retired in 1990, but continued to work at the Gill Tract until the day of his death. It was remarked that the way you knew Ken was retired was that he only worked half a day on Saturday.

Biological control was his passion as well as his profession. Biocontrol has been subdivided into the three tactics of importation, conservation and augmentation. Evidence of Ken's solid training and great command of the field was that he was well-versed in all three. Besides publishing on the history of biological control, Ken was involved in the importation of the natural enemies of pear psylla, acacia psyllid, spotted alfalfa aphid, blue alfalfa aphid, pea aphid, walnut aphid, plum aphid, european asparagus aphid, iceplant scales, Egyptian alfalfa weevil and walnut husk fly. He was familiar with the conservation of the natural enemies through his work on population monitoring and reducing insecticide usage for *Colias* caterpillars and aphids in alfalfa.

However, it was in the area of augmentation of natural enemies, coupled with insect nutrition, that Ken made his most important contributions to science. He was the first to develop an "artificial egg" for the mass-rearing of *Chrysoperla*, and helped develop artificial diets for mass-rearing *Trichogramma*, coccinellids



Figure 2. Some pioneers of modern biological control in Palm Canyon, Riverside County, California in 1948 (L–R) (front row) Stan Flanders, Glen Finney, Charles Fleschner, P. H. Timberlake, Everett Dietrick & Paul DeBach; (second row) Blair Bartlett, Ken Hagen, Prof. Harry Smith, Dave Lloyd, Harold Compere & Ed Steinhaus; (third row) Carl Huffaker, Ken Hughes (kneeling), Ted Fisher & A. J. Baisinger.

and tephritids. His innovative work, with Richard Tassan, on food sprays for predators was a major breakthrough in biological control and continues to serve as a basic example for augmentation of field populations of entomophagous insects. Ken considered that his most significant research contribution was presented in a 1986 paper, wherein he hypothesized that the occurrence of amino acids in honeydew helped protect honeydew producers from ant predation, and presented data showing that chrysopids were attracted to a combination of plant volatiles and kairomones from honeydew, but the attraction varied with the age of the crop.

Ken was truly a scientist of international stature and experience. He engaged in collaborative research in Mexico, Central America, Brazil, Greece, Kenya and China, but his travels also extended through Europe to India, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand and Chile. Of the 22 visiting scientists and postdoctoral students he hosted in his lab, 18 were from other countries, and of the 28 graduate students he supervised, eight were from other countries, while he was an external examiner of dissertations of another ten students from outside the United States.

Ken's research interests extended beyond biological control, including aquatic Hymenoptera and the immature stages of Hymenoptera, but especially the biosystematics of Hymenoptera (Encyrtidae) and Coleoptera (Coccinellidae and Anthicidae). His work with the Coccinellidae included documenting the complex migratory behavior of the convergent ladybeetle, which involved the use of hot air balloons and scoops fitted onto fixed wing aircraft to sample airborne beetles. This work led to an article in the *National Geographic* (1970) entitled "Following



Figure 3. At Gill Tract, Albany, California in 1985: (L-R) Chuck Kennett, Carl Huffaker, Dick Douthett & Ken Hagen.

the ladybug home". Ken was particularly pleased with that issue, since it also included an article on his ancestors, the Vikings.

He codescribed *Karpinskiella paratomicobia* (Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae) (Hagen & Caltagirone 1968), and had the following patronyms named in his honor: *Notoxus hageni* (Coleoptera: Anthicidae) (Chandler 1982), *Gnathowisea hageni* (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) (Gordon 1985), *Olla hageni* (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) (Vandenberg 1992), *Meleoma kennethi* (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae) (Tauber 1969), *Metaphycus hageni* (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) (Daane & Caltagirone, 1999), and the Hagen glands in Braconidae (Hymenoptera) (Buckingham & Sharkey 1988).

Ken was a member of the Entomological Society of America (president of the Pacific Branch in 1979 and fellow), American Entomological Society, Entomological Society of Canada (fellow), Pacific Coast Entomological Society (president 1968–69 and Honored Member), Entomological Society of Washington, Kansas Entomological Society, Hawaiian Entomological Society, Georgia Entomological Society, Society of Systematic Zoology, the Coleopterists Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science (fellow), American Institute of Biological Sciences, International Society of Hymenopterists, and the International Organization of Biological Control (president 1980–84).

He was honored at the 1989 national meeting of the Entomological Society of America with a symposium entitled "Native and Introduced Predaceous Coccinellidae: A Tribute to Kenneth S. Hagen for His Contributions to Coccinellid Biology". In 1990 he was the recipient of the prestigious Berkeley Citation presented by the University of California, Berkeley, for outstanding service to the

University, and honored by the California State Senate Rules Committee Resolution #2513. In 1992 he received the Distinguished Service Award by the Association of Applied Insect Ecologists and the Lifetime Excellence in Entomology from the Hawaiian Entomological Society, and in 1993, the Distinguished Service Award (Honored Member) by the Pacific Coast Entomological Society. In 1995 the International Organization of Biological Control presented Ken with the Distinguished Biological Control Science Award, and he presented an invitational talk on the Chemical Ecology of Chrysopidae at the IOBC's conference honoring him. In 1998, a review of forage alfalfa pest management was dedicated to Ken (Summers 1998).

Irrespective of these many scientific honors, Ken Hagen was probably best known among his colleagues for several personal traits. First, he always kept a pot of coffee going in his lab, and this served as a focal point for staff and visitors to drop in and discuss entomology. Second, he had a virtual encyclopedic knowledge of entomology and biological control. At the Gill Tract, it was generally understood that if you had a question, your first stop should be Hagen's office. And if he didn't immediately know the answer to the question, as often as not, he was able to swivel around in his chair, and from his immense reprint collection pick out the appropriate reference. Finally, he was extremely generous with his time and knowledge. No matter who approached him, be it a professor, graduate student, staff personnel, farmer or member of the general public, Ken would be happy to lay aside whatever he was working on, and give that person his full attention until he got the answer, or could refer the person to the correct authority. And if the search dragged on, it did no good to tell Ken to forget it—he just “hung in there” and kept looking for your answer. Ken was also popular with the local elementary school teachers, taking out the young students to the Gill Tract's alfalfa field and showing them how to sweep for insects. To Ken, this commitment to teach others about entomology was as natural as can be, possibly reflecting his own debt of gratitude to those teachers who helped him, and he willed his substantial entomological library to the Division of Biological Control.

Ken liked working with wood and was a fine carpenter. He was also interested in sailing, stamp collecting, astronomy, and (due to his studies of anthicids) sand dunes. However, outside of entomology, Ken's greatest interest was book collecting. He was a keen bibliophile, and would bind his own books. His book and journal collection eventually outgrew his house, and when the house next to his came up for sale, Ken and Maxine ended up buying it, largely to use the garage as a storage space for his overflowing library.

A tireless researcher, a loyal and dedicated member of the University of California faculty, an enthusiastic teacher, a helpful and stimulating colleague, and a generous human being, Ken Hagen was, in every sense of the word, a true gentleman.

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